

Claims

- [c1] A method for providing a personalized sequence of compositions for a user, the method comprising:
- capturing the user's control actions including those control actions that cause movement backward or forward through said sequence of compositions
 - associating said control actions with particular compositions that the user is hearing
 - selecting the next composition in said sequence, wherein said selecting is influenced by said associated control actions
- whereby a customized entertainment sequence is automatically generated for the user based upon said associated control actions.
- [c2] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said associating further includes adjusting an estimate of user's preference for said heard compositions.
- [c3] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said selecting is also influenced by an analysis of the user's preference for each composition, wherein said analysis utilizes said associated control operations.

[c4] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said selecting is also influenced by other compositions in the user's collection.

[c5] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said selecting of compositions, that are unfamiliar to the user, is also influenced by other compositions in the user's collection.

[c6] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said selecting is also influenced by an analysis of the aggregate control operations of other users.

[c7] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said selecting is also influenced by the availability of individual user usage-rights for the compositions.

[c8] A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising identifying the specific user who is initiating the control operations.

[c9] A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said compositions in said sequence include music, audio, sound, music videos, movies, video clips, speeches or audio books.

[c10] A method for adding a composition to a user's collection, the method comprising:
– generating a customized sequence of compositions for a user

- selecting a composition, that is unknown to the user, for inclusion in said customized sequence based upon other compositions already in the user's collection
- playing a sample sound segment representing a compelling portion of said unknown composition as a part of said customized sequence
- adding the composition or the composition's identifier to said user's collection when indicated by a user action occurring while said sample is playing

whereby a user's collection is expanded with minimal actions by the user.

[c11] A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein said selecting is also influenced by upon the aggregate control actions of other user's.

[c12] A method as claimed in claim 10 further including adding to the user's collection the usage-rights for said composition.

[c13] A method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said usage-rights are limited to one individual user.

[c14] A method as in claim 12 wherein the user's usage-rights are stored and are accessible across a network by any playback device near the user.

- [c15] A method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising stopping the currently playing sample sound segment and playing the full composition of said currently playing segment, when requested by a user action.
- [c16] A method as claimed in claim 10 further including the playing back of a sequence of the compelling portions of several compositions when initiated by user action.
- [c17] A method for controlling usage rights comprising:
- identifying a specific user as validly active at a playback device
 - providing usage-rights associated with said specific user, for each composition in the user's collection
 - establishing that said identified user has appropriate usage rights for each composition prior to playing back a composition at said playback device
- whereby the user's usage-rights can be made available to any playback device that is being used by the specific user.
- [c18] A method as claimed in claim 17 further comprising storing one or more copies of the user's usage-rights remotely across a network.
- [c19] A method as claimed in claim 17 further comprising ac-

quiring usage-rights for said specific user, for a currently playing composition when initiated by user action.

[c20] A method as claimed in claim 17 further comprising providing a copy of said usage-rights to the playback device the specific user is currently using.